

What are VR services?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services help people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. In Missouri, VR services are provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, a part of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program is supported by federal and state funds.

Who is eligible for VR services?

To be eligible for assistance from VR, a person must:

1. Have a physical or mental impairment that constitutes a substantial impediment to employment.
2. Require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter into, engage in or retain gainful employment.

There is no age limit for eligibility except that the individual must be of employable age.

Due to restricted funding, the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is unable to provide services to all individuals with disabilities at this time. A statewide Order of Selection has been implemented, and individuals will be served on the basis of the severity of their disability.

What services will VR offer to help me become employed?

VR provides a wide range of services. You and your counselor will determine which services are required to help you become employed. At all stages throughout your VR program, you will be provided vocational information and guidance allowing you to make informed choices regarding your employment.

Types of services that may be provided include:

- assessment to determine the extent of your disability and what services are required for you to become employed.
- guidance in choosing suitable employment.
- individual counseling during the rehabilitation process.
- time-limited physical or mental restoration services that can assist you in obtaining employment.
- assistive devices (such as artificial limbs, wheelchairs or hearing aids) that increase your ability to work.
- vocational training to prepare you for employment. This may include tuition and fees as well as books and supplies for education in a college, university, trade school, community rehabilitation program or on-the-job training program.
- transportation costs necessary for you to participate in a training program.
- job-related tools and licenses for you when you are ready to go to work.
- help in developing job-seeking skills.
- assistance in finding you a job.

Who pays for VR services?

Services such as assessment, guidance, counseling and assistance in finding a job are provided at no cost. Other services may be provided at no cost, partial cost or all cost to you depending upon your income and resources.

What is Independent Living?

Throughout the state, independent living services are provided by Centers for Independent Living (CILs). Funded through Vocational Rehabilitation grants, CILs are managed by people with disabilities who have been successful in establishing their own independent lifestyles.

CILs provide a variety of services including the following four core services that are required by federal and state mandates: information and referral, independent living skills training, advocacy, and peer support. To find the CIL nearest you, contact your local VR office.

What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment services may be available for individuals with the most significant disabilities requiring on-the-job supervision. Supported Employment is defined as competitive employment in an

integrated setting or employment in integrated work settings in which individuals are working toward competitive employment. Supported Employment should be consistent with an individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, interests and informed choice. Ongoing support services are provided for workers with the most significant disabilities.

If an individual is eligible, VR could provide community-based job training if other funding sources are available to provide long-term, follow-along, on-the-job support services that the individual needs to remain employed.

How do I apply?

To apply, contact the VR district office nearest you. If you need the phone number or address for the nearest office, contact the state office in Jefferson City toll-free at (877) 222-8963.

Individuals, organizations and government agencies may refer individuals to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Can people covered by Social Security Disability Insurance receive VR services?

Yes. The Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will assist workers covered by Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Vocational Rehabilitation has cooperated with the Social Security Administration for many years to help SSDI recipients.

How does VR comply with the Civil Rights Act?

The Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Services are provided without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability.

What is Disability Determination?

The Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also administers the Disability Determination Services (DDS) Section, which works in conjunction with the Social Security Administration.

DDS personnel decide if workers are eligible to receive monthly disability benefits from Social Security after the workers have been disabled by injury or illness. To be eligible for such benefits, a worker who was covered by Social Security must have a physical and/or mental disability that prevents substantial gainful activity or employment.

Decisions about a person's eligibility for disability benefits are made on the basis of medical reports provided by physicians. DDS also handles cases involving disabled adult children and widows with disabilities who may be eligible for benefits on the account of their deceased spouses.

In cases where an individual's medical condition improves or when he or she returns to work, DDS personnel decide if disability benefits continue.

Find out more about VR and DDS

For more information about Vocational Rehabilitation programs and services in Missouri, contact:

Coordinator
Vocational Rehabilitation
3024 Dupont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109-6188
Phone: (573) 751-3251
Toll-free: (877) 222-8963
TTY: (573) 751-0881
Fax: (573) 751-1441
E-mail: info@vr.dese.mo.gov
Web site: <http://vr.dese.mo.gov>

For more information about DDS services and procedures, contact:

Administrator
Disability Determination Services
3024 Dupont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109-6188
Phone: (573) 751-2890
Toll-free: (877) 222-8963
TTY: (573) 751-0881
Fax: (573) 526-2950
E-mail: info@vr.dese.mo.gov
Web site: <http://vr.dese.mo.gov>

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